

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

EDWARD S. ENGARTO ET AL.

SERIAL NUMBER:

EXAMINER:

FILED: NOVEMBER 24, 2003

GROUP ART UNIT:

FOR: THICKNESS MEASURING DEVICE, HAVING IMPROVED SOFTWARE,
FOR USE WITHIN A MAIL HANDLING SYSTEM, AND A METHOD
OF USING THE SAME

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

HONORABLE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS & TRADEMARKS
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SIR:

In connection with the above-identified patent application, and the prosecution thereof before the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and in compliance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 CFR 1.56, Applicants hereby desire to make of record, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.97, the following **PRIOR ART** of which Applicants are aware and which is also listed upon the attached **PTO FORM 1449**:

Information Disclosure Statement

**THICKNESS MEASURING DEVICE, HAVING IMPROVED SOFTWARE, FOR USE
WITHIN A MAIL HANDLING SYSTEM, AND A METHOD OF USING THE SAME**

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Tanimoto	2002/11432
Pettner	6,135,292
Schaal	6,123,330
Mandel et al.	5,823,529
Large et al.	5,727,692
Kruger	5,704,246
Tovini et al.	5,238,123
Tolmie, Jr. et al.	4,953,842

The present invention, in connection with which the present patent application is being prosecuted, is directed toward a thickness measuring device for use in connection with a mail handling system wherein a rotary encoder has a lever arm operatively associated therewith which is adapted to be deflected by mail pieces or units which pass by one end portion of the lever arm upon which an idler wheel or roller is mounted causing deflection of the lever arm. Deflection of the lever arm causes the rotary encoder to emit impulse data which is converted within a central processing unit to linear dimensions which are indicative of the thickness of the particular mail piece or unit. A conveyor of the mail handling system is adapted to route or convey pieces or units of mail to sorting or storage bins, and when a number of pieces or units of mail, having a cumulative thickness dimension which is equal to the storage capacity of a particular storage or sorting bin, have been transmitted or conveyed to that sort-

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ing or storage bin, the conveyor will no longer convey additional pieces or units of mail to such bin until the same is emptied or replaced. The system further comprises a central processing unit (CPU) which has incorporated therein improved software which permits the system to accurately determine the thickness dimensions of articles having substantially constant, but relatively large thickness dimensions, as well as articles having variable dimensions.

While the cited **PRIOR ART** is relevant to the present invention in that the **PRIOR ART** discloses various devices for determining thickness dimensions, it is submitted that such **PRIOR ART** patent publications cited above do not disclose the particular aforementioned features of the present invention system, and therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the examiner should merely consider such **PRIOR ART** in its proper perspective, make the same officially of record, and proceed with completion of the examination of this patent application.

Respectfully Submitted,
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